

In the Specification

At page 9, line 23, please delete "5° to 30°" and substitute --60° to 85°-- therefor.

At page 9, line 24, please delete "10° to 15°" and substitute --75° to 80°-- therefor.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 8 and 17-24 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A pinless composite masonry block comprising a front surface and a back surface adjoined by first and second side surfaces, a top surface and a bottom surface each lying adjacent said front, back, and first and second side surfaces,

each of said side surfaces having an inset extending inward from said side surface and spanning from said block top surface to said block bottom surface,

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said block top surface comprising [one or more protrusions, of said protrusions] at least one protrusion, positioned adjacent said first and second insets [inset] on said block top surface, whereby said protrusion functions by mating with an inset on a second, similarly configured block, and

said block back surface comprising first and second legs, said first leg extending from said block [the wall] back surface beyond the plane of said block first side

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surface and said second leg extending from said block [the wall] back surface beyond the plane of said block second side surface.

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6. (Once Amended) The block of claim 1 wherein said block upper surface further comprises a second protrusion [two protrusions], and wherein each protrusion is shaped to seat within the insets of adjacently positioned similarly configured blocks.

9. (Once Amended) The block of claim 1 [8] wherein said insets extend from about 1 inch to 4 inches into the center portion of the block.

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10. (Once Amended) A retaining wall structure, said retaining wall structure comprising one or more courses, each of said courses comprising one or more composite masonry blocks, each of said composite masonry blocks comprising a front surface and a back surface adjoined by first and second side surfaces, a top surface and a bottom surface each lying adjacent said front, back and first and second side surfaces,

each of said side surfaces having an inset extending inward from said side surface and spanning from said block top surface to said block bottom surface,

said block top surface comprising [one or more protrusions, each of said protrusions] at least one

protrusion, positioned adjacent said first and second insets [inset] on said block top surface, whereby said protrusion functions by mating with an inset on a second, similarly configured block, and

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said block back surface comprising first and second legs, said first leg [legs] extending from said block [the wall] back surface beyond the plane of said block first side surface and said second leg extending from said block [the wall] back surface beyond the plane of said block second side surface.

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11. (Once Amended) The [retaining] structure of claim 10
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wherein said structure comprises at least two courses wherein the blocks of said upper course comprise insets which are seated on the protrusions of the blocks [block] of said lower course.

Please add the following new claims:

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--25. 9 The block of claim 1 wherein the area of each inset adjacent said block bottom surface is larger than the area of said protrusion.

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26. The block of claim 1 wherein said insets extend into the center portion of the block in a direction generally parallel to said block front surface, and wherein said protrusion is interposed on said block top surface between said insets.

27. The block of claim 26 wherein said protrusion is kidney shaped.

28. The block of claim 1 wherein said block back surface on each block has substantially the same width as said block front surface on each block such that two of said blocks may be placed adjacent to one another to define an opening therebetween bounded by adjacent legs and side surfaces on said two blocks.

29. The block of claim 28 wherein each of said legs on said block back surface of each block are removable for decreasing the width of said block back surface.

30. The structure of claim 10 wherein the area of each inset adjacent said block bottom surface is larger than the area of said protrusion.

31. The structure of claim 10 wherein said insets extend into the center portion of the block in a direction generally parallel to said block front surface, and wherein said protrusion is interposed on said block top surface between said insets.

32. The structure of claim 31 wherein said protrusion on each block is kidney shaped.

33. The structure of claim 10 wherein said block back surface on each block has substantially the same width as said